



William L. Windsor, Jr.
Associate Vice President
Office of Consumer Safety

December 13, 2017

The Honorable Doug Green
Ohio House of Representatives
Chairman, Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Re: HB 293 (Scherer, Sheehy) Alter time periods pertaining to new teen drivers

Dear Chairman Green,

On behalf of Nationwide, please support passage of HB 293, which proposes to modernize Ohio's young driver licensing system by making two small, but important adjustments; lengthening the Temporary Instruction Permit phase from 6 to 12 months and beginning the nighttime driving protections for newly licensed drivers earlier in the evening, rather than midnight. Nationwide is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio and is proud to provide 15,000 jobs in the state and 1.25 million policies to Ohio residents. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. Six teens ages 16 to 19 die every day from motor vehicle injuries. Teen drivers ages 16 to 19 are nearly three times more likely than drivers aged 20 and older to be in a fatal crash.

We know that Ohio has seen an unprecedented rise in the frequency and severity of auto related crashes, including amongst teen drivers. In 2016, approximately 8,300 injuries and fatalities occurred in Ohio teen driver crashes. This is a 15 percent increase from 2014 and equates to an average of 23 injuries or fatalities every day involving a teen driver. Nighttime driving protections for newly licensed drivers protect them from the most dangerous driving conditions while they are still inexperienced. In Ohio, 75 percent of young driver nighttime crashes occur between 9 p.m. and midnight. Ohio's young driver licensing system currently gives teens just six months to learn to be safe drivers. Research indicates this is not long enough. A 12-month permit phase ensures every new driver has the chance to practice driving in all weather conditions with an adult to help keep them safe. Recent studies rank Ohio 49th, nearly last in the country when it comes to laws that protect teen drivers.

Nationwide is a long-standing leader in highway and automobile safety. This includes our commitment to reducing crashes and fatalities through heightened public awareness, development of technology to mitigate risks, continued targeted research, and enactment of safety laws. Nationwide supports graduated driver licensing laws that incorporate a three-stage graduated system to protect youthful drivers. Your support of HB 293 is another step forward to protect our roadways and save lives.

Again, thank you for your consideration of HB 293 to support stronger provisions that promote greater safety benefits and reduce teen related crashed and fatalities.

Sincerely,

William L Windsor, Jr.
Associate Vice President
Office of Consumer Safety

Cc: Ohio House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
Representative Scherer
Representative Sheehy